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In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-28; and add new Claims 29-49, as shown below. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented claims in a continuing or future application.

1-28. (Canceled).

29. (New) A system for utilizing a workflow definition language to construct a workflow, comprising:

a computer including a processing device operating thereon;

a source file stored on a computer readable medium, wherein the source file includes a workflow definition annotation that contains a plurality of workflow definition commands including commands for defining parallel processing of a workflow and separate workflow branches therein, and wherein the workflow definition annotation further contains a command to terminate the parallel processing of the workflow when certain conditions are met;

means for the computer to read the source file and process the plurality of workflow definition commands to activate a workflow, including creating separate workflow processes corresponding to the separate workflow branches;

means for activating each of the separate workflow processes to subsequently generate activities as defined by each workflow branch; and

means for determining when the conditions specified in the source file have occurred and then terminating the parallel processing of the workflow.

30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the workflow definition annotations can be invoked by a Java application.

31. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the workflow definition annotations are stored in an XML file, and wherein the plurality of workflow definition commands are provided as XML commands.

32. (New) The system of claim 29, further comprising a light-weight virtual machine at the computer that processes the workflow and that is enabled to, at a particular point in the workflow process, save the workflow's execution space including program stack and variable state, and, at a later point in time, revive the workflow at the same point in the workflow process using the saved program stack and variable state.

33. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the source file is a Java Web Service file that includes the workflow definition annotation and the workflow definition commands.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the Java Web Service file also references Java methods and variables for a software application running on the system and using the workflow.

35. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the workflow definition file is a separate Java Work Flow file that includes the workflow definition commands, and that operates together with a Java Web Service file for an application, to use the workflow defined by the Java Work Flow file.

36. (New) A method for accessing Java Message Service an application program interface using a mark-up language, comprising the steps of:

- accessing a source file stored on a computer readable medium, wherein the source file includes a workflow definition annotation that contains a plurality of workflow definition commands including commands for defining parallel processing of a workflow and separate workflow branches therein, and wherein the workflow definition annotation further contains a command to terminate the parallel processing of the workflow when certain conditions are met;

- processing the plurality of workflow definition commands to activate a workflow, including creating separate workflow processes corresponding to the separate workflow branches;

- activating each of the separate workflow processes to subsequently generate activities as defined by each workflow branch; and

- determining when the conditions specified in the source file have occurred and then terminating the parallel processing of the workflow.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the workflow definition annotations are invoked by a Java application.

38. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the workflow definition annotations are stored in an XML file, and wherein the plurality of workflow definition commands are provided as XML commands.

39. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising, at a particular point in the workflow process, saving the workflow's execution space including program stack and variable state, and, at a later point in time, reviving the workflow at the same point in the workflow process using the saved program stack and variable state.

40. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the source file is a Java Web Service file that includes the workflow definition annotation and the workflow definition commands.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the Java Web Service file also references Java methods and variables for a software application running on the system and using the workflow.

42. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the workflow definition file is a separate Java Work Flow file that includes the workflow definition commands, and that operates together with a Java Web Service file for an application, to use the workflow defined by the Java Work Flow file.

43. (New) A computer readable medium, including instructions stored thereon which when executed cause the computer to perform the steps of:

accessing a source file stored on a computer readable medium, wherein the source file includes a workflow definition annotation that contains a plurality of workflow definition commands including commands for defining parallel processing of a workflow and separate workflow branches therein, and wherein the workflow definition annotation further contains a command to terminate the parallel processing of the workflow when certain conditions are met;

processing the plurality of workflow definition commands to activate a workflow, including creating separate workflow processes corresponding to the separate workflow branches;

activating each of the separate workflow processes to subsequently generate activities as defined by each workflow branch; and

determining when the conditions specified in the source file have occurred and then terminating the parallel processing of the workflow.

44. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the workflow definition annotations are invoked by a Java application.

45. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the workflow definition annotations are stored in an XML file, and wherein the plurality of workflow definition commands are provided as XML commands.

46. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 43, further comprising, at a particular point in the workflow process, saving the workflow's execution space including program stack and variable state, and, at a later point in time, reviving the workflow at the same point in the workflow process using the saved program stack and variable state.

47. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the source file is a Java Web Service file that includes the workflow definition annotation and the workflow definition commands.

48. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 47, wherein the Java Web Service file also references Java methods and variables for a software application running on the system and using the workflow.

49. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the workflow definition file is a separate Java Work Flow file that includes the workflow definition commands, and that operates together with a Java Web Service file for an application, to use the workflow defined by the Java Work Flow file.